



GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Public Hearing February 11, 2013

Testimony on Raised Bill No. 6100.

An Act Concerning The Regional Consolidation of Certain Functions of Election Administration

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and Members of the GAE Committee

My name is Sue W. Larsen. I am Chairman of the ROVAC Legislative Committee. If the intent of this bill is to seek ways to reduce costs while maintaining the integrity of elections, ROVAC is in opposition to this bill but suggests forming a study group including Registrars of Voters and Town Clerks would be a better proposal to ascertain meaningful and effective approaches. Thoughtful gathering of facts from both cities and towns is necessary to put forth a good plan.

Consistency in poll worker training is currently being worked on by the Secretary of the State's office. ROVAC welcomes these types of initiatives. Registrars across the state can use the same training material while the poll workers would not have to travel to other municipalities for training.

Online registration is currently under development with the DMV. Conceptually, this is a great opportunity to make registration more convenient for the voter. Is it a cost savings to the state is yet to be seen but it is a measure worth undertaking for the residents of CT. Registrars in our municipalities must be the ones to be vigilant to insure the accuracy of this system.

Are there cost reductions that can be instituted? Yes, and ROVAC is trying to be a part of needed solutions. ROVAC's pending legislation allowing municipalities to use **poll books** is an example of using technology to increase efficiencies and cost reduction. Registrars want to be in the forefront of change and are working toward better, more efficient elections that maintain voter contact and fair, and open elections. Let's be sure that any legislative proposal is fact based.

Thank you for allowing this testimony.

Sue W. Larsen, Registrar of Voters
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